

Announces new legislation to keep military families in New Jersey

Washington, DC - Congressman John Adler, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, released a report today revealing a pay discrepancy on Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst. On a conference call with reporters, Congressman Adler explained that New Jersey is now home to the only joint base that crosses over two separate pay areas, meaning civilian employees physically located at the former McGuire Air Force Base and Fort Dix are making less than their colleagues located on the former Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station.

"We need to keep jobs in New Jersey," Congressman Adler said. "Civilian employees on the joint base live in our communities, shop at our local businesses, and deserve the same pay as their colleagues."

Congressman Adler continued to report that due to New Jersey's high taxes, insurance rates, and housing costs, McGuire and Fort Dix have lost job applicants to Lakehurst and Fort Monmouth, which are part of the higher New York pay area.

- Former McGuire Air Force Base and Fort Dix are located in Burlington County, which is in the Philadelphia pay area and the former Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station is located in Ocean County, which is in the higher New York pay area.

- This means that a job that is physically located at a unit on the former Fort Dix or McGuire AFB that pays \$49,651 per year, would pay \$52,398 if that same job was assigned to the former Lakehurst NAES.

Now, with Fort Monmouth closing, approximately 5,400 jobs will be relocated to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, rather than remaining in New Jersey. Although there are jobs at the new joint base for some of these employees, they cannot afford to live in their current homes and receive the lower (Philadelphia) locality pay that is currently applied to most of the jobs at the joint base.

To Ensure Pay Parity for Federal Employees Serving at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst: Congressman Adler is pushing legislation that would prevent pay issues at the joint base. The

bipartisan legislation consolidates the Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst as one joint installation into Ocean County, which is located in the higher (New York) cost area. The legislation will ensure that:

- No civilian employees lose pay due to the consolidation.
- All civilian employees are paid equally for jobs performed regardless of where they work on the Joint Base.
- The Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst offers competitive wages for displaced civilian employees at Fort Monmouth, NJ.

[Congressman Adler's complete report is available here.](#)